

(b) comparing the staining intensity of said marker ladder with the staining intensity of said nucleic acid wherein the staining intensity of said marker ladder and said nucleic acid is a function of nucleic acid mass.--

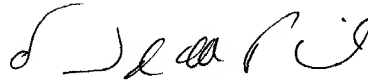
Adel  
C17

**Remarks**

Prompt examination and early allowance of this application are respectfully requested. New claims 15-33 are presented for examination. This claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Donald R. McPhail  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 35,811

Date: 12/20/00

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 371-2600

P:\USERS\DMCPHAIL\TT257-03\P99-93.wpd  
SKGF Rev. 9/30/96dcw